

Northampton Mercury

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2013

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Northampton Mercury

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2013

BRINGING YOU THE NEWS SINCE 1720

BOOTHROYD: CLUBS ARE TARGETING OUR WINGER

SEE
BACK
PAGE

£14.5 MILLION FUNDING FOR TOWN'S 'BIG SIX'

WNDC REVEALS FINAL SPENDING PLAN BEFORE IT IS WOUND UP

Millions of pounds of investment will flow into Northampton over the next 12 months, with West Northamptonshire Development Corporation supporting enterprise zone developments.

This week, the specialist Government body published its last ever Business Plan, which covers funding for Northampton's 'Big Six' regeneration schemes, ranging from a new railway station to waterside offices.

The projects will be supported by WNDC's £14.5m investment programme – the largest annual budget it has had for five years.

Peter Mawson, WNDC's chief executive, said: "We have entered a defining period in the transformation of Northampton. During this year, we will see new local landmarks start to rise and barriers to progress begin to fall. This

includes the construction of a £20m railway station, a modern bus interchange, and a state-of-the-art innovation centre. In the current climate, there are few parts of the country that can boast such extensive town centre development. It is the culmination of almost a decade of intense preparation and large-scale investment."

Established in 2004, WNDC will close on March 31, 2014 and will be succeeded by local authority delivery arrangements.

The Big Six projects are the rebuilt train station, new offices at St Peter's Waterside, the university complexes at Nunn Mills and St John's, offices that are part of Project Angel and the Grosvenor Centre extension.

Mr Mawson said: "By March 2014, we will have invested over £100m in the development of West Northamptonshire."



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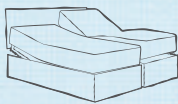
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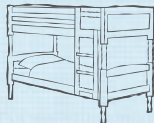
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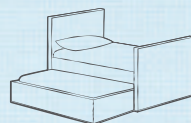
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First Buses says some routes may be cut and jobs lost in Northampton

Bus firm: 'Cutbacks possible but we're not leaving town'

First Buses says it has no plans to pull out of Northampton, despite warning staff that job losses and service cuts could be on the horizon.

At the end of last week, staff at First in Northampton were sent a memo warning that jobs and bus services were under threat due to the recession.

The memo stated: "It is with regret I have to inform you we are proposing to discontinue a number of services in Northampton."

"We have begun consultation with the trade unions on the possibility of some redundancies at our Northampton depot."

"I can appreciate this is unsettling news for employees and it will also be unwelcome news for our customers."

The memo said the cuts were needed because some routes in Northampton had "under-performed for some years".

But the firm's commercial director, Steve Zanker, said that while some routes

in Northampton may have to be scaled back, First had no plans to leave Northampton completely.

He said: "We are not planning to pull out of the town. This is simply to make the business more sustainable for the future."

He also added that no final decision had yet been made on whether services would actually be cut.

He said: "Nothing's been decided yet, it's still under discussion. One of the options is to reduce the number of bus-

es in Northampton, but we're still in the consultation stage."

Talks with staff are expected to last for about a month.

In response to the possible cuts, the leader of Northampton Borough Council, Councillor David Mackintosh (Con, Rectory Farm) has written to First to offer the authority's help.

He said: "Clearly, it's worrying there may be a reduction in bus services in the town."

"So I've written to First to offer any support we can," he added.

EMERGENCY SERVICE SHAKE-UP

Plan for 13 ambulance bases across south of county

Ambulances will be based at 13 points across the south of Northamptonshire if new proposals to shake up ambulance stations go ahead.

East Midlands Ambulance Service has published the plans ahead of a final decision on Monday.

They show an upgraded 'hub' station in the north of Northampton, complete with vehicle workshop, and an upgraded station at Brackley station minus a workshop.

Stand-by points will also be in Hardingstone, Towcester, Daventry, New Duston, Great Billing, Potterspury, Watford, Great Doddington, Northampton town centre and two more elsewhere in Northampton; one in the north west of the town and another in the south west.

Kettering will have a 'hub



A new, upgraded hub ambulance station is part of EMAS' proposals

'station, with 11 more stand-by points across the north of

Northamptonshire. Exact locations will be de-

cided once the final plans are approved.

Northampton Mercury

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Cannabis farms grow more than just drugs

Is there one under your nose?



Crimestoppers is giving out scratch and sniff cards so people can recognise the smell of cannabis (pictured right).

Crime charity wants your help to sniff out drug farms

'Scratch and sniff' cannabis cards are to be delivered to homes across Northamptonshire after the county was deemed to be a UK hotspot for drug gangs.

As part of the pioneering initiative, launched by Crimestoppers, the cards will

be delivered to households across the county and will give off a whiff of the class B drug when scratched.

The cards will also carry advice and tips for catching out drug barons.

It is hoped they will allow people to sniff out the signs of drug production houses and

cannabis factories, in their streets and neighbourhoods. Crimestoppers says the cards are required as "not many people" recognise the smell of cannabis.

It comes as the county was ranked along London and Manchester as one of the worst areas in the UK for can-

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nabis gangs, who often rent houses and convert them into drugs dens using hydroponic equipment.

In Northamptonshire, more than 300 cannabis farms were found across the county between 2010 and 2012.

The factories often illegally hack into electricity mains and exploit illegal immigrants, usually from Vietnam, who are left to look after the plants.

Police and Crime Commissioner Adam Simmonds welcomed the campaign.

He said: "This is an innovative campaign and I think it is really good that we are working with Crimestoppers to get the message out.

"Cannabis factories are no longer far away business enterprises run from industrial units away from our homes. They can be in the house next door, in the neighbour's shed,

above the shop."

He added: "As a county we are very proactive in tackling these illegal factories and bringing offenders to justice. This will in part have contributed to the high number that we find and disrupt."

Crimestoppers has reassured people you cannot get "high" from the cards. The charity insisted, on Twitter, they do not contain drug's active ingredient, THC.

Know the signs

■ Crimestoppers says people may not know the signs of cannabis factories, as they prepare to deliver 'scratch and sniff' cards

■ The charity's director of operations, Roger Critchell, said: "We are distributing 'scratch and sniff' cards because not many people know how to recognise the signs of cannabis cultivation happening in their neighbourhood, many are also not familiar with the established links between this crime and serious organised crime."

■ Founder and Chairman of Crimestoppers, Lord Ashcroft, said: "These individuals use violence and intimidation to carry out crimes and endanger the lives of those around them. We want to help put an end to this and the funding it provides to serious crimes like human trafficking and gun crime."



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Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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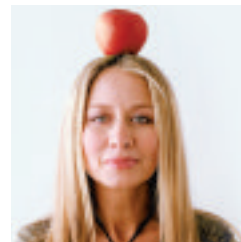
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Neil Burton was left paralysed by two rare conditions and dreams of hugging his children again

Paralysed Neil makes bid to fund treatment

A Northampton father, who was left paralysed by two rare conditions, is aiming to raise £25,000 to have a potentially 'life-changing' treatment in the hope he will be able to hug his children again.

Neil Burton, aged 32, from Moulton, became ill about four years ago with acute transverse myelitis and Guillain Barre syndrome, both of which caused paralysis and numbness in his limbs overnight.

He believes stem cell treatment could give him movement back in his arms but the treatment is only at the experimental stage in the UK. He needs to travel to Israel where the procedure is more advanced.

Mr Burton, his family and friends have planned a series of fund-raising events to raise

the cash to fund his trip and treatment.

He said: "The conditions took away the use of my arms and the hardest part of it all has been not being able to cuddle my three girls.

"If the treatment works it would completely change my life. I have to do this now while the girls are still young."

Mr Burton, who is a father to Neve, aged 11, seven-year-old Holly and Libby, aged five,

has helped to organise a Mercury and May music fund-raising tribute night for his appeal, at the Daventry Court Hotel in Sedgemoor Way, Daventry, on August 24.

Despite being in a wheelchair and reliant on a ventilator to breathe, Mr Burton still works at IT company, Logistex, in Kettering like he did before the illness, but he now uses a voice-controlled computer to carry out his work.

Struck by rare conditions

■ **Transverse myelitis affects the spinal cord and causes paralysis and numbness in the limbs leaving many victims with severe disabilities, while others can make a complete or partial recovery within two years.**

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Friday 24 May 2013

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Saturdays, 18 May & 15 June 2013

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Royal Ascot on Ladies' Day

Thursday 20 June 2013

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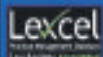
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University strikes deal to sponsor Town shirts

The University of Northampton has been named as the new Cobblers shirt sponsor for the next three seasons.

The partnership, which will begin in June this year, will see the university's name carried on the front of all Cobblers shirts from the under nine academy side through to the first team.

The deal is believed to be bigger than the last three-year shirt sponsorship agreement between the Cobblers and estate agents Jackson Grundy which was worth more than £300,000.

David Cardoza, Cobblers chairman, said it made "perfect sense" for the two organisations to work together.

He said: "I am delighted to welcome the University of Northampton on board as we embark on a major partnership to work together for the benefit of Northampton."

"Not only will they become our main shirt sponsors, they are also our partners for our Football in the Community scheme and our academy, and so the 100,000 children a year we come in to contact with will



The University of Northampton are the new shirt sponsors for Northampton Town from next season

be benefitting from their support.

"But this is not just a sponsorship deal. This is a partnership that will see us offer unique and exclusive opportunities to students in the world of professional football and supporting areas, this will give students at the University of Northampton a real competitive edge over other candidates."

Professor Nick Petford, vice-chancellor of the University of Northampton, said "Northampton has a rich heritage of sport and the local, regional, national and international coverage Northampton Town Football Club receive is the perfect way for us to promote the university both locally and further afield. The club offers us a unique opportunity in the world of professional football that will be of great value for our students."

Good support

■ The University of Northampton will replace Northampton estate agents Jackson Grundy, who have been the Cobblers shirt sponsor for the past six years.

■ Cobblers chairman David Cardoza said he was very appreciative of Jackson Grundy's support and David Jackson, senior partner of the estate agents, would remain on the club's board of directors.

■ The new shirt design was officially unveiled last Thursday. Gala Casinos will remain the club's back of shirt sponsor.

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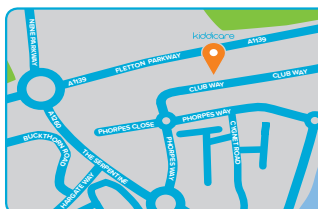
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the centre:mk



Mission shopping at the centre:mk this Easter with Spy Games

Shopping this Easter at thecentre:mk could be a mission impossible with Spy Games! From Friday 29 March – Sunday 7 April*, Middleton Hall will play host to Spy Games, with a variety of physical, mental and analytical challenges to put you through your paces!

The mission, should you choose to accept it: go straight to thecentre:mk and discover how to become a true spy. You'll get the chance to learn how to break secret codes, crack locked safes, detect intruders with infra-red and navigate your way through a

cross fire of laser beams – your life could depend on it!

Starting with the code breaking challenge, you'll need patience and a steady hand as you find your way through a series of cryptic messages before taking a shot at deactivating a ticking time bomb! Once you've succeeded it's time to crack the safe. If you're confident you've worked out the combination then try your luck, you might just find a reward! Next attempt the infra red challenge, time to test your nerve as you try to guide your hand between invisible lasers to reach the all important set of keys at the top of the tower. The final task is only for the brave. While your family watch from a screen outside, you'll need to criss cross through a laser room without breaking any beams to reach a safe and retrieve your prize!

Melanie Beck, head of marketing at thecentre:mk commented, "we are very excited to add a new dimension to shopping at thecentre:mk when Spy Games arrives in Middleton Hall over the Easter holiday. This mission is only for the brave and we hope shoppers will enjoy taking on the challenge."

For more information on opening times, ticket prices and competitions visit www.thecentremk.com
For daily updates visit www.facebook.com/thecentremk

* Please note thecentre:mk is closed on Easter Sunday.



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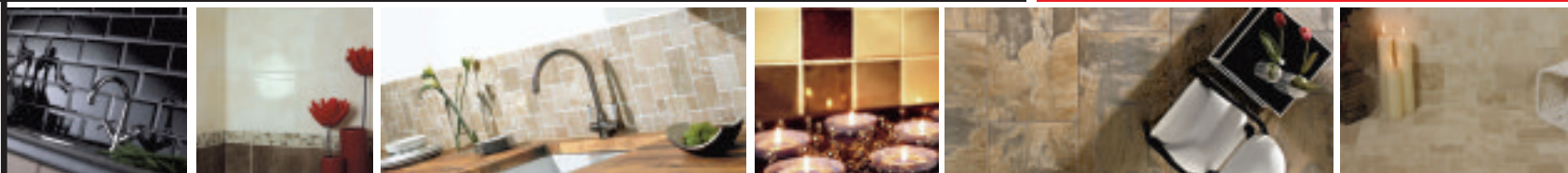
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BY ANDY ENRIGHT
www.motorstoday.co.uk

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lessly discreet, beautifully finished and genuinely practical.

It'll do anything a regular A4 Avant will and a whole lot more. It's as quick as a Porsche 911 yet good for the school run and lap of the Nurburgring.

Quattro all-wheel drive is a given, and an S tronic seven speed twin clutch gearbox wasn't a shocker, nor a 40-60 rearward biased torque split. The 62mph benchmark sprint is just 4.7 seconds away en route to an electronically



Crushingly fast

governed top end of 155mph.

This latest model will probably be the last of the line with the big and characterful V8 powerplant. It already seems a bit of an odd choice to fit this engine given there are smaller, lighter and more efficient alternatives available to Audi, but we're not complaining.

It's one of the great production car engines but seems as if it's had a stay of execution rather than a new lease of life. The lucky few won't complain.

FACT FILE

AUDI RS 4 AVANT 4
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MAX SPEED: 155mph
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 Tel: 01933 227379 07796246497

1998 £995

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1.4 5 door hatchback, petrol, red, 1995, CD. Alloys, Tax till June 13, MOT till November 13, £450 ono
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 Tel: 07812 735065**

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Ford

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Wedding Anniversaries

LONG Roy & Julie

*Congratulations and love to the best Mum and Dad on their 30th Wedding Anniversary. Thank you both for your continued love and support.
Hannah and Matthew x x x x*

Roy married Julie (nee Robinson) on 2nd April 1983 at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Love and congratulations to you both. Mum, Helen, Sally, Stuart, Samantha, Melissa, David and Neil. Hugs and kisses to you both from Millie and Lucie x x

*Congratulations to Roy and Julie on your 30th Wedding Anniversary. May you have many more Anniversaries together.
Love Mum and Keith x*

Diamond Wedding

WALTERS Sylvia and Ray

Congratulations to our wonderful Mum and Dad (Nan and Pap) on your very special day.

We all love you very much.

Love Cherry & Dave, Raymond & Sue and all Grandchildren, Great-Grandchildren and all the family

xxxx



In Memoriam

McDONNELL Christopher

30th March 2012.

A year has passed But memories stay We miss you Dad And think of you everyday.

From Loving Family x

O'RIORDAN Steve

A great Brother Missing you More each day Still lost without you Love Shay

x

Fond memories of Our much loved Uncle Love Helen, Robin & Joseph x x x

Obituaries

BIRD Rita

Rita Wife, Mother and Nan. After a long bravely fought illness. Passed away peacefully at home with her Family beside her. Goodbye Rite Your loving Husband Dave.

Funeral Service will be held on Thursday 4th April 2013 at the Church of John the Baptist (Kingsthorpe Village Green) at 1.45pm, followed by burial at Kingsthorpe Cemetery. Flowers if desired c/o Kevin Matthews Funeral Service, Balmoral Road, Northampton.

BIRD Rita

Our Mum and Friend.

Always in our hearts. Will cherish all the wonderful memories.

All our love

Alan, Julie and Michael.

Beloved Nan.

All our love

Nathan, Jacob and Lana x x x

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honest, slim, new to area,
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meals out, nights in, walks.
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dancing, walks, reading,
WLTW similar aged male
for friendship initially. Tel
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No: 403477

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brown hair, seeking Tom
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likes music, walks, socialising,
meals/night out. Tel
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JACKIE social butterfly
with many interests looking
to enjoy nice times with
similar lonely heart who
like me is just wanting to
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TINA young looking attractive
single female looking
for love, with similar lonely
heart resorting to advertising
in the hope of finding
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SUE fair haired petite
pretty female, honest,
trustworthy, GSOH, enjoys
countryside, holidays,
WLTW male, any age/looks
also looking for possible
relationship/friendship. Tel
No: **0906 500 1766 Box**
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AUCIE retired, seeking
man of my dreams, 55-
70yrs, give me a call. Tel
No: **0906 500 1766 Box**
No: 403137

KATHY 37, new to area
and very lonely in love,
seeking male who loves to
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more. Tel No: **0906 500**
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times no strings fun at first,
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creet, genuine, clean, re-
spectful guy. Tel No: **0906**
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FEMALE 59, caring, honest,
seeks N/S male, 50-63
to share life with. Tel No:
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394358

PETITE Pisces female,
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easy-going, happy, sociable,
intelligent, looking for
someone to share time
with, possible leading to fr.
Tel No: **0906 500 1766**
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PETER seeks honest, loyal
female for nights in and
out. Tel No: **0906 500**
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lady for discreet relation-
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DAVID young at heart,
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403413

SINGLE male, 53, seeks
lady, 55-65 for good com-
pany and possible relation-
ship. Tel No: **0906 500**
1766 Box No: 403475

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medium build, brown
hair/eyes, GSOH, likes
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away, holidays, tennis
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nurse with GSOH. Tel No:
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cialising, pubs, music, car
boot sales, seeks female
with similar interests. Tel
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No: 403547

MALE 33, GSOH, nice
personality, smart, seeks
female, 25-35 for friend-
ship/relationship. Tel No:
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403629

KIND male, 48, enjoys cine-
ma, meals out, live con-
certs, travel, seeks loving
lady, 38-64 for LTR. Tel
No: **0906 500 1766 Box**
No: 394344

PETER 31, 5ft 8ins, likes
keep fit, gym, martial arts,
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female companion. Tel No:
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403548

MALE seeks lady, 50-65
for nights in/out, friendship.
Tel No: **0906 500 1766**
Box No: 403487

MALE 48, slim, active,
seeks female, any age for
friendship and more. Tel
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No: 403355

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ful, 39, CHAC, dark hair,
blue eyes, seeks passion-
ate female for loving relation-
ship. Tel No: **0906 500**
1766 Box No: 403229

SINGLE male, 39, seeks
female, 28-44 for fun, love,
kisses and good times. Tel
No: **0906 500 1766 Box**
No: 403135

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loves life, looking for femi-
nine lady who really enjoys
life. Tel No: **0906 500 1766**
Box No: 403167

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groomed, passionate,
hardworking, seeks fe-
male, black/Asian/East
European. Tel No: **0906 500**
1766 Box No: 402161

ATHLETIC fit guy, attrac-
tive, dark hair, GSOH, so-
matic, seeks sexy,
romantic, attractive lady for
friendship/relationship. Tel
No: **0906 500 1766 Box**
No: 402117

MALE late 50's, N/S, easy-
going, tactile, hardworking,
genuine, seeking lady to
share good times and inter-
ests. Tel No: **0906 500**
1766 Box No: 401975

GENUINE smart, nice
looking male, solvent, own
home/business, lovely per-
sonality, loving, tactile,
seeks LTR with attractive
female. Tel No: **0906 500**
1766 Box No: 401929

SILVER haired 57yr old
male, 5ft 8ins, reasonable
build/looks, CHAC, seeks
slim lady for LTR. Tel No:
0906 500 1766 Box No:
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likes animals, seeks fe-
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Pury Hill Business Park
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11 to 18 Learning Community

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www.rushden.northants.sch.uk or email h.lovesey@rushden.northants.sch.uk

Closing date: Friday, 19th April 2013.
Interview date: w/c Monday, 29th April 2013.

The Academy will be closing for Easter on Thursday 28th March and re-open on Monday 15th April.

Rushden Community College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and the successful candidate will be checked via the Disclosure Barring Service (DBS).

Headteacher: Mr Mark Lester • NOR: 975
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T: 01933 350391 | F: 01933 411689
W: www.rushden.northants.sch.uk

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We are now urgently seeking candidates for the available positions as stated below for our rapidly expanding heating department and welcome suitable applicants. All positions are under PAYE with the benefits of paid holiday, etc and wages are processed weekly.

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Experienced and qualified engineers are urgently required for our expanding heating and boiler division. Qualifications must include each of the following: CCN1, CPA1, HTR1, CENWAT, CKR1 and Gas Safe registration. All work is provided on a daily diary via email. Earning potential can range between £28,000 and £40,000 (productivity dependant) with company vehicle, fuel card and uniform provided. Full driving licence required.

Electricians
17th Edition qualified electricians are urgently required to work alongside our heating department for boiler wiring plus possibly some electrical preparation work for solid wall insulation jobs. All work is provided on a daily diary via email. Earning potential can range between £28,000 and £40,000 (productivity dependant) with company vehicle, fuel card and uniform provided. Full driving licence required.

All applicants need to be well mannered, reliable and customer focused as both roles will involve daily face to face contact with our domestic customers.

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SPORT

Clubs targeting Demontagnac

FOOTBALL

By JEFFERSON LAKE
Football writer
jefferson.lake@press.co.uk

Aidy Boothroyd believes some of the Cobblers' opponents are deliberately trying to get in-form winger Ishmel Demontagnac sent off.

The 24-year-old has been yellow-carded in Town's past two matches to take his total number of bookings for the season to six.

Those two games have also seen Demontagnac in arguably his best form since

joining the club, with the winger showing good discipline in completing his defensive duties on both occasions.

But the player's dark side is never far away - he saw yellow for a reckless challenge against Oxford that he did not need to make, moments after he failed to receive a free-kick for what he felt was a foul against him.

It was a 'red mist' moment in similar style to the one that occurred at the end of the Accrington match, when Demontagnac and visiting full-back Nicky Hunt were involved in a confrontation that stopped the game and continued after the final whistle.

Boothroyd feels some teams are fully aware of the player's reputation for such events and that they are using tactics of provocation to limit his effectiveness.

"Because of his past I think a lot of teams are trying to wind him up," said the Cobblers boss.

"They are trying to have a little bit of afters with him but he stands his ground.

"He's without doubt a talent and it's about getting him consistent now and getting him producing the goods.

"We want him attacking and we also want him helping out his full-back by getting back and defending when he needs to."



Aidy Boothroyd believes Ishmel Demontagnac is being subjected to special treatment by opposing teams



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